

News Release



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VETERAN GRADE I WINNER INCLUDE BETTY, RETURNING GO MAGGIE GO HEAD THANKSGIVING DAY'S GRADE II FALLS CITY HANDICAP AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

Holiday Racing Centerpiece Shares Thanksgiving Spotlight With Grade III River City Handicap

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016) – Brereton C. Jones and Timothy C. Thornton's **Include Betty**, winner of the Grade I Mother Goose to highlight her 3-year-old season, and Mike Tarp's **Go Maggie Go**, winner of Pimlico's Black-Eyed Susan (GII) and fourth to **Cathryn Sophia** in the Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI), loom as major contenders in a competitive group of 11 fillies and mares ages 3-and-up entered in the 101st running \$200,000 Falls City Handicap (GII), the centerpiece of a 12-race Thanksgiving holiday racing program on Thursday, Nov. 24 at Churchill Downs Racetrack.

The Falls City dates back to the first racing meet in 1875 at the track then known as the Louisville Jockey Club, but unlike the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (GI), the Kentucky Oaks and Friday's Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare (GI) – all of which made their debuts in that first local racing meet and have been run annually since – there have been some gaps in its renewals through the years. Through its history the 1 1/8-mile Falls City has provided a stage for both rising stars and fillies and mares who are preparing to end their racing days and embark on a new career in the breeding shed.

Thanksgiving Day's renewal of the Falls City is scheduled as the 10th event on a 12-race program that begins with a special first race post time of 11:30 a.m. (all times EST). The Falls City shares the holiday racing spotlight with the 39th running of the \$100,000 River City Handicap (GIII) for 3-year-olds and up at 1 1/8 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course. The Falls City has a scheduled post time of 3:53 p.m., while the River City is set for 4:22 p.m.

The **Tom Proctor**-trained **Include Betty** finished eighth behind **Lovely Maria** in the 2015 Kentucky Oaks, but rebounded to win the \$300,000 Mother Goose at Belmont Park in the high point of her 3-year-old season that also featured triumphs in the Fantasy (GIII) at Oaklawn Park, the Suncoast at Tampa Bay Downs and the Remington Park Oaks. The 4-year-old daughter of **Include** has made only three well-spaced starts this year, but finished a close second in her most recent outing in an allowance race over a muddy track at Parx. That was **Include Betty**'s first outing since a fifth-place run behind **Cavorting** in the Ruffian (GII) at Belmont Park on May 14.

Include Betty will be the starting Falls City high weight at 120 pounds and will be ridden from post six by 19-year-old rising star **Drayden Van Dyke**. She brings a career record of 5-4-3 in 17 races and earnings of \$777,780 into the Thanksgiving Day fixture.

The 3-year-old **Go Maggie Go** burst onto the racing scene early this year with impressive triumphs in her first two career starts at Gulfstream Park that included a 2 1/4-length victory in the Gulfstream Park Oaks (GII). The **Dale Romans**-trained filly competed in the Kentucky Oaks off that light preparation and overcame a troubled journey to finish fourth, beaten only three lengths. She followed her Oaks run with a fifth-place run behind **Carina Mia** in the one-mile Acorn (GI) at Belmont Park and a disappointing finish behind then-unbeaten **Songbird** in Saratoga's Alabama (GI) in her most recent outing.

The daughter of Ghostzapper has been working steadily at Churchill Downs in preparation for her return to competition in the Falls City. She will carry 118 pounds and will break from post eight under jockey **Robby Albarado**, who will ride **Go Maggie Go** for the first time. Along with her record of 3-0-0 in six races, Romans' filly brings career earnings of \$423,400 into the Falls City.

Another contender in the Falls City could be **The Elkstone Group LLC**'s consistent **Lady Fog Horn**, who scratched from the \$100,000 Cardinal Handicap (GII) on the turf on Saturday in favor of a Falls City bid. The **Tony Granitz**-trained 4-year-old Zavata filly has won four of six races in 2016 to improve her career record to 12-3-2 in 21 starts. The reigning Indiana Horse of the Year won the \$150,000 Frances Slocum at Indiana Grand for the second consecutive year – one of her six stakes victories over that track during the past two seasons – and her career earnings of \$647,993 make her the record-holder for the richest Indiana-bred female.

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Lady Fog Horn, trained by **Tony Granitz**, will carry 117 pounds from post three under jockey **Albin Jimenez**.

Other contenders in the Falls City include **JSM Equine's Alotta Skirt**, a 3-year-old daughter of Candy Ride coming off a 1 1/16-mile allowance at Churchill Downs for trainer **Eddie Kenneally** in her most recent race; **G. Watts Humphrey Jr.'s Romantic Vision**, a **Rusty Arnold**-trained 4-year-old daughter of Lemon Drop Kid who won a 1 1/16-mile allowance race at Keeneland last time out; **Nancy Vanier and Cartwright Thoroughbred V LLC's Streamline**, runner-up to **Forever Unbridled** in the Apple Blossom (GI) for trainer **Brian Williamson** in April at Oaklawn Park; and **Lothenbach Stable's No Fault of Mine**, the **Chris Block**-trained runner-up in the 2014 Golden Rod (GII) at Churchill Downs and the 2016 Arlington Matron (GIII) on synthetic Polytrack at Arlington Park.

Others who merit respect in the Falls City are the **Ian Wilkes**-trained duo of **Whitham Thoroughbreds LLC's Walkabout** and **Six Column Stables, Randy Bloch, John Seilers III** and **Fred Merritt's Sweetgrass**.

Walkabout, a 3-year-old daughter of Stroll has won three of her last six races – including two victories at Churchill Downs, and suffered a narrow defeat to Falls City rival Alotta Skirt in her most recent race. Sweetgrass, a daughter of 2007 Kentucky Derby winner **Street Sense**, finished third to **Kiss to Remember** over a muddy track in Churchill Downs' Grade II Chilukki in September.

The field for the 101st running of the Falls City Handicap from the rail out with jockey and assigned weight: Walkabout, **Brian Hernandez Jr.** (112); **Crooked Stick, Sophie Doyle** (113); Lady Fog Horn, Jimenez (117); Alotta Skirt, **Corey Lanerie**, 113); **She Mabee Wild, Jesus Castanon** (114); **Include Betty, Van Dyke** (120); **Romantic Vision, Channing Hill** (115); **Go Maggie Go, Albarado** (118); Sweetgrass, **Chris Landeros** (117); **No Fault of Mine, Florent Geroux** (116); and **Streamline, Joe Rocco Jr.**, 117.

THE PIZZA MAN HOPES TO DELIVER ON THANKSGIVING DAY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

Grade I-Winning, \$2.1 Million-Earner Tops Full Field for Grade III, \$100,000 River City Handicap

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016) – Multi-millionaire and two-time Grade I-winner **The Pizza Man** will vie for his 13th career stakes win when he faces a full field of older males in the 39th running of the \$100,000 River City Handicap (GIII) at 1 1/8 miles on turf on Thanksgiving Day at Churchill Downs.

The River City Handicap joins the \$200,000 Falls City Handicap (GII), a 1 1/8-mile test for fillies and mares, on Thursday's special 12-race holiday program. Racing on Thanksgiving Day at Churchill Downs has been a Louisville tradition since 1969 where more than 7,000 turkey dinners are served with all the trimmings, making it the largest number anywhere in the region. The first race begins early at 11:30 a.m. (all times Eastern) with the Falls City set as Race 10 at 3:53 p.m. and the River City as Race 11 at 4:22 p.m. The final race of the day is scheduled for 4:50 p.m. ET.

The Pizza Man, based in Chicago with trainer **Roger Brueggemann**, is the 124-pound River City high weight, and will concede two to 10 pounds to his 13 rivals. Sixteen horses were entered Sunday for the popular grass event but only a maximum of 14 will start.

The complete field from the hedge out (with jockey and assigned weight): **Are You Kidding Me** (Alan Garcia, 122), **Behesht (FR)** (Joe Rocco Jr., 114), **Thatcher Street** (Brian Hernandez Jr., 116), **Allied Air Raid** (Robby Albarado, 115), **Taghleeb** (Julien Leparoux, 116), **One Go All Go** (Declan Cannon, 115), **The Pizza Man** (Shaun Bridgmohan, 124), **Dubai Sky** (Channing Hill, 115), **Dac** (Sophie Doyle, 114), **Roman Approval** (Ricardo Santana Jr., 117), **Dujac** (Chris Landeros, 114), **Pleuven (FR)** (Corey Lanerie, 118), **Granny's Kitten** (Florent Geroux, 117) and **Bullard's Alley** (Marlon St. Julien, 118). Also Eligible: **Coco Mon** (Robby Albarado, 114) and **Croninthebarbarian** (Ricardo Santana Jr., 113). Behesht (FR) will race with blinkers on.

The Pizza Man, the Eclipse Award finalist for 2015 Champion Male Turf Horse owned and bred by **Midwest Thoroughbreds Inc.** of **Richard and Karen Papiese**, is the most accomplished horse in the race with 17 wins and earnings of \$2,117,371 from 32 starts, which includes a dozen stakes triumphs. The popular Illinois-bred made international headlines a year ago when he beat **Big Blue Kitten** by a neck in the \$1 million Arlington Million (GI) for his third stakes win in a row.

After a 4-1-0 record in six 2015 starts, The Pizza Man has won just once in six starts this year but it came against Grade I competition in the \$228,401 Northern Dancer Turf (GI) at Woodbine in September. A month later, he would finish fourth behind Erupt (IRE) in the \$762,726 Canadian International (GI). Both of those races were at 1 ½ miles on grass and The Pizza Man will be cutting back to a distance that he has raced only twice before. He did win the \$75,000 Robert F. Carey Memorial Handicap at 1 1/8 miles on turf at Hawthorne in 2013.

Chief among The Pizza Man's rivals is Canadian-based Are You Kidding Me from the barn of veteran trainer **Roger Attfield**. The versatile 6-year-old son of Run Away and Hide has won two stakes in a row on Woodbine's synthetic Tapeta surface – the \$123,006 Durham Cup (GIII) in September and the \$159,068 Autumn (GII) on Nov. 6 – and hopes to become a millionaire for owners **Ronald Kirk, John Bates and Michael Riordan** with a solid run in the River City. Overall, Are You Kidding Me, a five-time Grade II winner and twice a Grade III winner, boasts a record 9-5-6 in 31 starts with \$981,852 in career earnings.

The field also includes a trio of Churchill Downs stakes winners in Pleuven (FR), Bullards Alley and Thatcher Street.

Nelson McMakin's 5-year-old gelding Pleuven (FR) won this summer's \$200,000 Wise Dan (GII) over 1 1/16 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course for trainer **Phil Sims**, and enters the race after finishing sixth in the \$1 million Shadwell Turf Mile (GI) at Keeneland on Oct. 8.

Wayne Spaulding and Faron McCubbins' 4-year-old gelding Bullards Alley took the \$100,000 Louisville Handicap (GIII) over 1 ½ miles on grass for trainer **Tim Glyshaw**. Most recently, he finished third and was beaten only a half-length by **Renown** and **Bigger Picture** in the \$100,000 Sycamore (GIII) over 1 ½ miles at Keeneland.

The **Ian Wilkes**-trained Thatcher Street, a 5-year-old gelding owned by **Randall Bloch, Phil Milner, John Seiler and Amtietan LLC**, beat Pleuven (FR) by a half-length to take the \$62,640 Opening Verse Overnight Stakes in May. A year ago, he finished second and was beaten two lengths by **Heart to Heart** in the 38th River City.

Mike Maker, the leading trainer at Churchill Downs' Fall Meet, will saddle a trio of horses for the River City: **Ken and Sarah Ramsey**'s Granny's Kitten, **Three Diamonds Farm**'s Roman Approval and **Michael Hui**'s Taghleeb. Maker is enjoying the finest year of his 16-year training career with purse earnings of \$10.7 million (which ranks sixth nationally), 190 wins and 31 stakes victories. More than half of his success has come in grass races, in which he's amassed nearly \$7 million from his 104 wins in 529 starts on turf in 2016. Twenty-five of his 31 stakes victories have come on the grass, including eight graded stakes triumphs led by **Al's Gal**'s score in the Grade I E.P. Taylor at Woodbine.

Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 143rd running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on May 6, 2017. The track's Fall Meet is scheduled for Oct. 30-Nov. 27. Churchill Downs has hosted the Breeders' Cup World Championships eight times and the event will return to the track in 2018. Information is available at www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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